* Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
* Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communiction (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
* Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
* Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
* Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

For the effective implementation of the programme, State AIDS Control Societies have been created in all States/UTs and three Municipal Corporations namely Mumbai, Chennai and Ahemdabad.

Supply of Albumin Blood

1577. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many licences have, so far, been issued by the Drug Controller General of India during the last one year for supply of albumin blood into India;

(b) whether the blood so imported met the required standards; and

(c) who are the distributors supplying blood to hospitals in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No licence has been issued for the supply of albumin blood into India.

(b) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

(c) Blood is supplied to Hospitals by licensed Blood Banks.

Protection of Herbal Plants

†1578. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the species of herbal plants are becoming extinct rapidly in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether due to not providing special protection to these species which are in great demand in the other countries the country is incurring heavy loss of foreign exchange;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of these herbal plants becoming extinct species; and

(d) the outline formulated for the conservation of the species of these herbal plants and for the export of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no evidence that herbal plants are becomng extinct rapidly in the Country.

(c) Does not arise

(d) Following steps have been taken in this regard.

- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book Listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants.
- 29 medicinal plants that are threatened or endangered have been included in the negative list for exports. The plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild.
- Central assistance is provided for ex-situ cultivation and development of such medicinal plants by setting up of Medicinal Plants Gardens and development of agro-techniques.
- Provisions have been made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for declaring notified endangered plants as specified plants and provide them total protection against commercial exploitation Such notification can be area specific.
- In most of the national parks and sanctuaries certain portions have been notified as crore areas where exercise of any rights is prohibited.
- Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate for development of medicinal plants in general and specificially in the areas including promotion of export.